ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

An agency of the Government of Ontario

Heritage Matters

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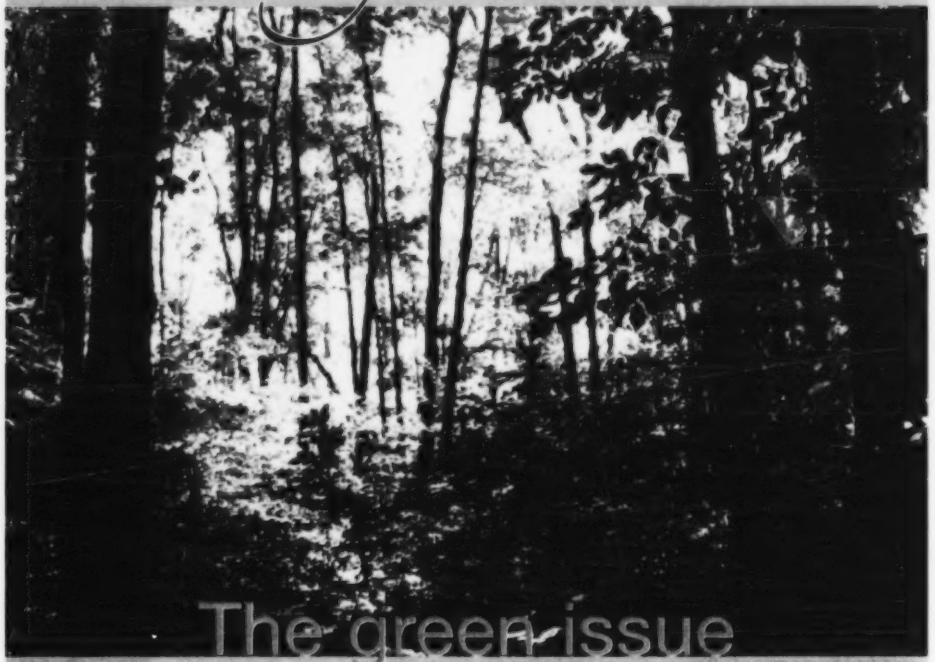

The green issue

In this issue

- Giant meteorite slams Algonquin Park
- Giving back to nature
- Gardening for biodiversity

May/June 2006

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A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman

Photo courtesy of Gilbert & Associates, Toronto

Many people don't realize it, but in 1968 the first donation to the Ontario Heritage Trust (formerly the Ontario Heritage Foundation) was a natural heritage property - Glassco Park in Kleinburg. This 494-acre (200-hectare) parcel of land lies in the East Humber River valley, adjacent to the Boyd Conservation Area and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. From early on, natural heritage has been important to the Ontario Heritage Trust. Today, it remains a significant focus of our activity.

We are delighted to showcase our natural heritage preservation efforts in this special "green" edition of *Heritage Matters*. The province's wetlands, woodlands, grasslands and geological land formations are treasures that enrich our natural environment.

The Trust manages a provincial portfolio of more than 140 natural properties, including over 100 Bruce Trail properties. Protected land includes the habitats of endangered species, rare Carolinian forests, flower-studded tall-grass prairies, wetlands, sensitive features of the Oak Ridges Moraine, rugged wild areas on the Canadian Shield and properties on the spectacular Niagara Escarpment.

The Trust promotes innovative ways of protecting natural heritage, encourages good stewardship, helps communities with local natural conservation projects, and works with conservation authorities, the Bruce Trail Association, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, local land trusts, and government at the municipal and provincial levels.

Enjoy your hikes along Ontario's trails and keep visiting the province's beautiful conservation areas. Your support helps us keep our open, green spaces intact for current and future generations.

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The Tackerman property near the City of Kawartha Lakes was acquired by the Ontario Heritage Trust in 2004.

Heritage Matters

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Ontario

05/06

It's not easy staying green

Working for a green and healthy Ontario

By Tony Buszynski

Natural heritage conservation can be traced back to the early times of the First Nations, whose close relationship with nature was reflected in religious beliefs in which spirits inhabited the physical world around them. The natural environment which provided the necessities of life was not significantly altered.

Butterfly milkweed. Photo: Karen Abel

With the coming of European settlement and an ever-growing population, the demands for agriculture, mineral and forest products from the natural environment grew at a non-stop pace. Economic growth transformed much of forested and natural lands into farmland and urban/industrial areas. Economic prosperity for many people came at the expense of what seemed to be an endless natural environment.

In the mid- to late-19th century, the loss of species such as the passenger pigeon, wild turkey and cougar became painfully apparent. The founding of naturalist clubs and museums began the movement to protect and preserve our natural heritage. Conservation legislation was passed. Algonquin Park was established as Ontario's first provincial park. Interest in natural sciences received attention in growing post-secondary educational institutions; natural heritage took on a role as a refuge from the fast pace of urban life. Artists such as the Group of Seven brought these feelings to life on canvas. And tourism, in the form of grand resorts and cottages, became fashionable to "get away to nature."

Nature also assisted in promoting an awareness of natural heritage. The devastation caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1954 resulted in the provincial government's establishment of conservation authorities throughout southern Ontario to help manage watersheds and ensure that urban development was compatible with natural systems.

Many natural heritage organizations were established throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries. Organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Nature, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ontario Land Trust Alliance – as well as many local land trusts, naturalist and hiking clubs – were formed and provided voices for natural heritage protection.

Throughout the last century, provincial governments responded with numerous initiatives to help secure natural heritage. The Ontario Heritage Foundation (now the Ontario Heritage Trust) was established in 1967 as the province's lead agency for built, cultural and natural heritage. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) developed a system of 319 provincial parks and 280 conservation reserves to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and natural heritage appreciation. And the Niagara Escapement Commission was created to administer the Niagara Escapement Plan.

Since the 1980s, conservation organizations have been especially active in natural heritage protection, starting in 1982 with the formation of the Natural Heritage League – a group of organizations dedicated to natural heritage protection. Since then, many provincially funded land acquisition and stewardship programs – involving public and private conservation partnerships – have been launched. Some past examples are: the Niagara Escarpment Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program (1985); the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (1986); the Natural Areas Protection Program (1998); and the Ecological Land Acquisition Program (2002). Currently, partnership programs include: the Nature Conservancy of Canada/MNR Greenlands Program (2004); Ontario Nature Trust Assistance Program; Ontario Land Trust Alliance (2004); and the Ontario Heritage Trust/MNR Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program.

Rough Hieracium. Photo: Karen Abel

Over the past few years a number of other initiatives have occurred to help protect our natural environment. The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, established in 2001, works to protect the key natural heritage features of the Oak Ridges Moraine. A new greenbelt has been created around the Greater Toronto Area in association with a new Greenbelt Foundation. The *Ontario Planning Act* has reinforced the need for municipal consideration of natural heritage in land-use planning. MNR continues to work with many partners to identify a natural heritage system for southern Ontario.

Natural heritage conservation has come a long way – from times when natural resources were seen as endless to the present when conservation needs are an endless challenge. Today, with ongoing preservation and stewardship of significant natural heritage areas across Ontario by many dedicated conservation organizations, much has been achieved. Yet much remains to be done to ensure future Ontarians will enjoy a green and healthy environment.

Tony Buszynski is the Acting Team Leader for Natural Heritage and Coordinator of the Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The TurGeorman property near the City of Kawartha Lakes was acquired by the Ontario Heritage Trust in 2004.

Ontario Heritage Trust – Statistics
(as at March 31, 2004)

- Bruce Trail properties owned by the Trust: 101 (4,055 acres/1,641 hectares)
- Other natural heritage properties owned by the Trust: 47 (3,735 acres/2,319 hectares)
- Natural heritage properties containing registered archaeological sites: 10
- Heritage buildings on Trust-owned natural heritage properties: 24
- Area the Trust helped to conserve through grant programs: 35,000 acres/14,499 hectares
- Natural heritage easements: 14
- Plaques commemorating natural heritage/environmental themes: 42

GIANT METEORITE SLAMS ALGONQUIN PARK

By Catrina Colme

Well, that would have been the headline 400 million years ago. Today, it is a fascinating mark on our natural landscape.

This is not a tale of science fiction, but rather the most likely explanation of how Ontario's Brent Crater in Algonquin Park was created. A giant meteorite suddenly plummets from outer space. Travelling at breakneck speed, it crashes to the ground in an instant. When it hits, the explosive impact releases energy equivalent to 250 megatons of TNT and sends shockwaves through the area. In its wake, it leaves a massive crater nearly four kilometres wide and hundreds of metres deep. Located at the northern edge of Algonquin Park near the village of Brent, the crater is a fascinating part of our geological history.

First discovered in 1951 from high-altitude aerial photographs, the crater appears as a circular depression across a terrain of thick woods, with lakes Gilmour and Tecumseh defining its north ring. Geophysical and diamond drilling investigations have shown that the crater contains more than 250 metres of sedimentary rock – including limestone, dolostone, sandstone, siltstone, shale and gypsum. Below that is a layer of breccia several hundred metres thick, composed of fragmented rocks.

Today, visitors explore the Brent Crater on foot. Entry to the area is by Brent Road, an access road located on the north side of the park off Highway 17. The Cedar Lake-Brent park office is en route and the entrance to Brent Crater trail is further down the road; there is also a campground nearby. For visitors familiar with Algonquin Park, it is worth noting that Brent Road provides excellent access deep into the park's interior.

At the crater, a two-kilometre interpretive hiking trail features six numbered posts designating its geological features. The path descends the eroded rim of the crater, proceeds to Tecumseh Lake and climbs back up the crater wall.

The first stop on the trail is the Observation Tower, where a provincial plaque commemorates the site. The tower provides the best views across to the crater's far rim, giving visitors some idea of its original size and the high-speed impact of the giant meteorite.

Along the trail, there is evidence of the meteorite's impact in the form of broken rocks shattered by the explosion. Visitors also experience the sandy, gravelly soil left by the glaciers that feels spongy underfoot, and learn about the special ecosystem created in the wake of the meteorite strike.

The Brent Crater tells the story of a prehistoric event that has permanently shaped the landscape of our province. It is worth a visit to see what remains today of this extraordinary moment from the dawn of time.

Catrina Colme is a Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

By Tony Buszynski

With ongoing development pressures for housing, roads and commercial and industrial activities in Ontario, natural heritage protection has become more critical than ever before in order to sustain biodiversity, human health and outdoor recreation. No single organization can ensure the necessary natural heritage protection and land stewardship on its own – sharing of resources is required to make it happen. The Ontario Heritage Trust must rely on an array of partnerships at many levels. Fortunately, the Trust is in a unique position to bring these various groups together to achieve this unified goal.

Site discussion at Speyside Woods about property management with staff from the Bruce Trail Association, the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Halton. Photo: Eric Boysen, MNR.

The Trust partners with provincial ministries to establish land acquisition and stewardship programs that, together with other conservation bodies, secure and protect natural heritage lands. The Niagara Escarpment Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program, run co-operatively with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), is a past example of a successful partnership. Currently, the Trust is responsible for delivering the $6-million Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program in co-operation with MNR and other Ontario-based conservation organizations.

The Natural Spaces initiative, involving non-public and public conservation partners, will help identify the priorities for natural heritage acquisition in southern Ontario – where development pressures are most keenly felt. This strategic approach to identifying broad areas of key natural heritage lands will help to focus limited resources on natural heritage properties that are in critical need of protection.

The Trust's other partners include conservation authorities, natural heritage organizations, municipalities, private land trusts, nature groups and others. Private lands are acquired in conjunction with a partner organization with property title being held by the Trust. The partners then assume the long-term property stewardship. Hence, natural heritage properties across the province receive stewardship attention by people living nearby – the same people who care about these properties and want to make a difference.

Over 95 per cent of the Trust's natural heritage portfolio is stewarded through partnerships with local conservation organizations. For example, the Trust has a long-standing partnership with the Bruce Trail Association (BTA) to help achieve the dream of securing the Bruce Trail. The Trust holds title to over 100 properties along the Bruce Trail. These properties are stewarded by local clubs and the BTA's dedicated volunteers.

Private landowners continue to make a difference. Many have been quietly stewarding and protecting their lands – in some cases, for generations. These individuals sometimes donate their lands to conservation agencies, such as the Trust, or allow conservation easements to be placed on their properties. Either way, they strive to ensure that their lands remain protected in perpetuity.

When people and organizations work together co-operatively, great things can happen. More natural heritage land will be secured faster through effective partnerships and the sharing of resources. The long-term effect of these combined efforts is sustained biodiversity and an improved quality of life for all.

Tony Buszynski is the Acting Team Leader for Natural Heritage and Coordinator of the Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

GIVING BACK TO NATURE

by Barbara Hoidenreich

Southwestern Ontario sustains the richest array of flora and fauna in the country. Known as Canada's deep south, this area includes sassafras, flowering dogwood, tulip trees and southern flying squirrels. It also contains the most threatened, rare and endangered species in Canada.

The largest parcel of intact Carolinian forest in Southwestern Ontario was owned by John Cornelius Backhouse and is situated in the Norfolk County. This land (known as Backus Woods) was sold by the Backus Family to the Big Creek Conservation Authority (which became part of the Long Point Region Conservation Authority – LPRCA) in 1956. What makes Backus Woods so unique is its intermingling of exclusively southern species in the upland forest areas with native beech, sugar maple, red maple and oak.

Over the years, the initial 651-acre (260-hectare) purchase has been augmented through a unique partnership that includes the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and the LPRCA. The 86-acre (35-hectare) Barrett-Sanderson Tract in South Walsingham was recently transferred to the LPRCA. (Harry Barrett was an LPRCA member from 1976-81 and former Board member of the then-Ontario Heritage Foundation. Floyd Sanderson was a member of the LPRCA from 1982-2003 and a signatory of the original 20-year conservation easement agreement for Backus Woods held by the Trust.)

The Barrett-Sanderson Tract is a prime example of how partnerships work at their best. Purchased by the NCC, ownership of the site was transferred to the LPRCA, subject to a conservation agreement between the LPRCA and the Trust that restricts subdividing and disturbing the property in any way. The LPRCA, in turn, contributed an additional $30,000 to the Backus Woods endowment fund that the Trust administers.

Stewardship and restoration are to be undertaken according to a plan developed by the NCC. The Backus Woods Advisory Committee – formed of representatives from the LPRCA, MNR, the Trust and the Norfolk Field Naturalists with input from other natural heritage experts as required – reviews stewardship plans and authorizes the release of funds from the interest generated by the Backus Woods Endowment Fund.

Two agreements were signed to direct the stewardship of Backus Woods - the Backus Woods Conservation Agreement and the Backus Woods Endowment Fund. While the documents were signed by the Foundation (Trust) and the LPRCA, they reflect the collaborative interests of many groups. These two agreements have successfully guided, for several years now, all aspects of the conservation of Backus Woods, and will continue to do so until January 2010 – and hopefully beyond.

The transfer of the Barrett-Sanderson Tract in the fall of 2005 to LPRCA officially launched the Backus Woods Enhancement Campaign – a $500,000 fundraising initiative supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The campaign aims to strengthen stewardship, research, monitoring and land securement – all of which will better protect Backus Woods. Supporters of the Backus Woods Campaign give back to nature, ensuring that the forest, now standing at 1,129 acres (457 hectares) is well tended and growing.

Barbara Hoidenreich is a Natural Heritage Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

For donations in support of the Backus Woods Enhancement Campaign, please contact:
Janice Robertson
c/o Long Point Foundation
PO Box 1
Vittori, ON N0E 1W0
Telephone: 519-428-4823

MINISTER OF CULTURE ANNOUNCES $10 MILLION FOR THE TRUST

Ontario Minister of Culture Caroline Di Cocco

All heritage enthusiasts welcome the new Minister of Culture – The Honourable Caroline Di Cocco. Elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2003 in the riding of Sarnia-Lambton, Di Cocco served in opposition as critic for culture and heritage. In April 2006, after serving as the Premier's Parliamentary Assistant, Di Cocco joined Cabinet for the first time as the new Minister of Culture.

On Saturday, May 20, 2006, Minister Di Cocco announced that the Government of Ontario is investing $10 million to preserve and promote heritage in communities across Ontario. This announcement, made at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, occurred during a special event to open the historic site for the season and launch a new exhibit titled *I'll Use My Freedom Well*.

"Our government is committed to celebrating people, places and events that have influenced and continue to shape our society," said Di Cocco. "This investment is an important step in strengthening the capacity of the Ontario Heritage Trust to preserve and protect some of our most important heritage sites."

"The preservation and conservation of Ontario's heritage helps build stronger communities and improves the quality of life of families across the province," said Di Cocco. "The Ontario government will continue to work with the OHT and other heritage stakeholders to ensure that Ontario's unique and irreplaceable heritage assets are protected for present and future generations."

The Trust thanks the Minister and the government for their ongoing support of our work across Ontario.

NEW BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Chairman is pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas H.B. Symons of Peterborough has been appointed to the Ontario Heritage Trust's Board of Directors. Professor Symons founded Trent University and served as its President and Vice-Chancellor from 1961 to 1972. Appointed Chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in 1986, he served in that post until 1996.

Professor Symons' work in education, human rights and heritage conservation has received national and international recognition, including honorary degrees from 14 universities and colleges across Canada and beyond. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada and a Member of the Order of Ontario.

It's plaque season!

In 2006, the Ontario Heritage Trust has scheduled several exciting provincial plaque unveilings throughout Ontario. From a battlefield to a grammar school, the French presence in Hearst to The Honourable Pauline McGibbon, an industrial farm to a unique black settlement – all of these plaques tell remarkable stories of Ontario.

The Provincial Plaque Program is the Ontario Heritage Trust's oldest and best-known activity. Since 1953, nearly 1,200 of these distinctive blue and gold plaques have been unveiled. Join us as we celebrate these important people, places and events in communities near you.

Saturday, June 3 – Battle of Ridgeway

The battle is commemorated where Irish-American revolutionaries called Fenians invaded Canada on June 1, 1866. This battle shocked the country, spurring improvements to Canada's defences and helping to bolster the Confederation movement. (Fort Erie)

An 1880 artist's conception of the Battle of Ridgeway. Library and Archives Canada C-19,737 (a.

South view of the Cornwall Grammar School, as it appeared in an 1848 print by John G. Howard. (Toronto Public Library/Toronto Reference Library, T31788.)

Saturday, July 1 – Cornwall Grammar School

Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School traces its beginning to this famous educational institution founded by John Strachan in 1803. The original school will be celebrated on Canada Day. (Cornwall)

Saturday, July 8 – Otterville African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery

Although slavery had been abolished in Ohio in 1802, a restrictive Black Code was still in place that made life difficult for blacks in that state. Many of these blacks decided to migrate to Canada in the 1850s and settled, with assistance from Quakers in Ohio, Indiana and in Canada, near Otter Creek Mills. This community will be remembered during a plaque unveiling ceremony. (Otterville)

Photo courtesy of Marvin Duguay.

Sunday, August 6 – Burwash Industrial Farm

Burwash Industrial Farm, established in 1914, was based on the revolutionary premise that low-risk inmates would benefit from the exercise and skills learned while working outdoors at self-supporting institutions. One of the largest reform institutions in 20th-century Ontario, this farm will be commemorated with a provincial plaque unveiling on the August holiday weekend. (Village of Burwash)

Thursday, September 14 – The French Presence in Hearst

Most of the French Canadians who settled in Hearst came to farm but soon turned to the more lucrative forest industry. Over the years, the French-speaking community in Hearst – once a minority – grew to 80% of the population with Francophones assuming leading cultural, economic and political roles. This plaque unveiling celebrates the growth of this significant community in Northern Ontario. (Hearst)

Saturday, September 16 – School Section No. 5 Crosby

This charming two-room school, opened in 1867, is an example of the late Victorian-era campaign to improve Ontario's system of public education through the construction of larger, more sophisticated schools. The Trust will unveil a provincial plaque to honour the significance of this building. (Crosby)

Thursday, October 5 – The Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon

Prior to becoming Ontario's first female Lieutenant-Governor (1974-1980), McGibbon served as the Chancellor of the universities of Toronto and Guelph, Chairman of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and a Director of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1967 and made a Companion to the Order of Canada in 1980. Join us as we celebrate her remarkable contributions. (Sarnia)

The Trust gets a new look

With last year's amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, the Ontario Heritage Foundation became the Ontario Heritage Trust and was given an enhanced role in natural heritage preservation, as well as a significant advisory role to the Minister of Culture for the provincial designation of cultural heritage sites.

As a result of these changes, the Trust wished to update its visual identity to reflect the breadth of its new mandate. The old logo, a blue and gold provincial plaque, depicted the agency's oldest and most recognized symbol and program activity. The new logo captures the Trust's strengthened mandate through four graphic components:

- **a provincial plaque**, lending an element of continuity from the previous logo, showcases the agency's best-known program and speaks to the Trust's commemoration and celebration of important heritage sites and events
- **a stylized eastern white pine** – the provincial tree – highlights the Trust's expanded natural heritage mandate
- **an iconic column** represents the Trust's directive to identify, preserve, protect and promote the province's built and cultural heritage
- **a stylized provincial trillium** speaks to the Trust's role as the province's heritage trustee, holding property on behalf of the Crown and the people of Ontario

The new logo was officially unveiled by the Trust at this year's annual Heritage Day celebration held at Toronto's Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre on February 20.

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

Heritage Week highlights

Heritage Day 2006 was celebrated in style at Toronto's Winter Garden Theatre.

On February 20, the Ontario Heritage Trust welcomed nearly 500 guests to share in this celebration of heritage. This year's theme for Heritage Day, Our Cultural Heritage Places, encouraged the celebration of our cultural structures – from concert halls, opera houses and theatres to First Nations longhouses, community halls, museums and art galleries.

Back row, from left: Dr. Richard Alway, The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, The Honourable James K. Bartleman, Andre Takacs and Bryan P. Davies (donors to the Scarab scenery restoration), Richard Oberfrank (Trust Executive Director), Scott Reid (donor to the Scarab scenery restoration) and Steve Pudlas. Front row, from left: Brenda Bruday, Nathaniel Trinidad and Michelle Rhodes from St. Michael Catholic School Choir and The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur. Photo: David Lee

Emceed by Steve Paikin (Co-Host, *Studio 2*, TVO), the celebration included speeches by The Honourable James K. Bartleman (Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor), The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander (the Ontario Heritage Trust's Chairman and Dr. Richard Alway (the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada's Chair). The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur (then-Ontario Minister of Culture and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs) profiled the federal Historic Places Initiative and the Ministry of Culture's new heritage toolkit for effective conservation. As well, she announced that the Ontario Heritage Trust would lead the compilation of a province-wide inventory of religious properties. "This inventory," said Minister Meilleur, "will assist the government, municipalities and faith groups in planning for preservation and adaptive reuse of these properties."

Toronto's St. Michael Catholic School Choir and the South African music and dance troupe Umoja entertained the crowd (which included students from Lincoln M. Alexander Elementary School) with lively performances.

Following the event, a reception was held and the Trust's latest vaudeville scenery restoration project was featured – the magnificent Scarab scenery. The Trust maintains the world's largest collection of vaudeville scenery flats, discovered backstage during restoration of the theatres in 1967-69. In addition, a cake featuring the Trust's new logo (unveiled earlier that day) was cut by the platform party.

Although heritage work occurs year-round, this launch event is a perennial favourite where heritage enthusiasts and stakeholders can celebrate their accomplishments.

THE WEDDING RUN

Doors Open Ontario 2006 is now in full swing, with events already completed in Guelph, Hamilton, Chatham-Kent and Gravenhurst-Muskoka. And we've only just begun. There are 45 community events this year (with 13 new ones) running between April and October in all corners of the province.

Keep an eye out, though, when you're touring these heritage sites. You may notice something different about some of the people around you. Because everywhere you go, you will encounter someone who is investigating heritage sites for more than the ornately carved banisters or neoclassical structures. Notice the careful glimpses ... the hushed whispers ... the jotting of notes. These Doors Open visitors are having an entirely different experience.

Each year, many visitors to Doors Open communities across the province take the opportunity not just to explore the wonders of our architectural heritage. They're making the rounds – investigating heritage sites for their potential as wedding venues. The wedding run has started!

Will this room hold 250 guests? Is this the architectural style we want as the backdrop for our photos? Will our guests be able to dance or will this just be a sit-down dinner? These are the questions that must be considered as these heritage buffs roam from one old building to the next looking for the perfect site for their wedding reception.

"Doors Open means different things to different people," says Doors Open Toronto organizer Jane French. "While the majority of our visitors come to see inside buildings that are often closed to the public, there are those who have a completely different agenda – with wedding bells ringing in their heads. It's very exciting to be part of that experience."

Fortunately, the Ontario Heritage Trust – like other organizations across the province - offers several heritage venues for exclusive gatherings. Our distinctive Conference and Reception Centres provide everything you expect in first-class facilities: beautiful and elegant heritage rooms, convenient locations and the finest cuisine provided by exclusive caterers.

We have an experienced team of Event Coordinators and a roster of professional caterers who will help organize the important details of your unique and memorable event. We offer timely advice and efficient service. And we go out of our way to accommodate special needs and last-minute bookings.

Choose between the rich, historic ambience of George Brown House, the Edwardian splendour of the Ontario Heritage Centre and majestic Fulford Place or the spectacular Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre – and all of these sites are open during Doors Open Ontario events.

So, don't be concerned if you see couples in corners, whispering in hushed tones and scribbling notes. They're there for the heritage – just like you. For now, though, the wedding run has them a little preoccupied.

For more information on the Trust's Conference and Reception Centres, call 416-314-3585 or visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

Exploring The Gallery at Toronto's Ontario Heritage Centre.

The Morning Room and Drawing Room at George Brown House (Toronto) is an elegant location for a small wedding or dinner party.

OUR PROVINCIAL TREE: THE EASTERN WHITE PINE

By Barbara Heidenreich

Builders of British sailing ships during the 1800s sought the tall, straight white pine for the masts. The best trees in British North America were stamped by the Crown and reserved for the British Royal Navy.

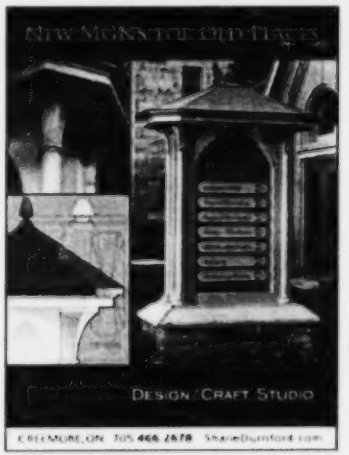
With its clusters of soft five-needled leaves, the eastern white pine remains a valuable timber source. Although the natural population is much depleted in southern Ontario, the distinctive profile of a lone, mature white pine still stands in fields and towers in woodlots as the tallest conifer in eastern Canada. Its wide-spreading branches tend to grow at right angles to the trunk, but often become irregular when growing in open fields, owing to the effect of the prevailing winds. This feature makes it a favourite with artists.

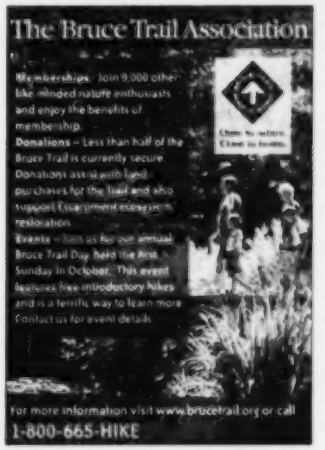
The eastern white pine *(Pinus strobus)* was declared the arboreal emblem of Ontario by the *Arboreal Emblem Act*, which received royal assent on May 1, 1984. By this *Act*, official recognition was given to the eastern white pine's contribution to the economy of the province.

The new Ontario Heritage Trust logo also pays tribute to the eastern white pine, symbolizing the Trust's role in preserving the province's natural heritage. One of the Trust's natural heritage easements is held on a site called the Lone Pine Marsh Sanctuary. Purchased by Muriel Braham, this provincially significant wetland in Cramahe Township, Northumberland is worth visiting for its nesting waterfowl and migration habitat – and also for the magnificent solitary white pine that overlooks Muriel's marsh.

Lone Pine Marsh, Braham.

Barbara Heidenreich is a Natural Heritage Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.




The Bruce Trail Association
Memberships - Join 9,000 other like-minded nature enthusiasts and enjoy the benefits of membership.
Donations – Less than half of the Bruce Trail is currently secure. Donations assist with land purchases for the trail and also support Escarpment ecosystem restoration.
Events – Mark us for our annual Bruce Trail Day, held the first Sunday in October. This event features free introductory hikes and is a terrific way to learn more. Contact us for event details.
For more information visit www.brucetrail.org or call
1-800-665-HIKE

The anatomy of a heritage conservation easement: Building the framework for a conservation partnership

By Jeremy Collins

Private landowners are often faced with a difficult dilemma – how to preserve the heritage of their land for future generations in a world where change is not only constant but continues to accelerate as scientific advances impact every aspect of our daily lives. Fortunately, they are not alone.

There is a growing community of heritage conservation advocates who want to help such landowners meet this challenge. Conservation easements provide a legal mechanism for private landowners to partner with the heritage community to conserve the heritage resources on their property. Easements protect more than just buildings and structural elements. They also protect natural sites, the habitat of a threatened species of animal or plant or cultural landscapes. They are voluntary legal agreements between a heritage property owner and a heritage organization – such as the Ontario Heritage Trust – with the joint purpose of ensuring the long-term conservation of the property's heritage resources. Since the legal agreement is registered on title, it binds the present landowner as well as all future owners of that property. In this way, conservation easements can protect heritage features on a property in perpetuity.

William Haarsth, with his children and grandchildren, being presented with an Ontario Heritage Trust easement marker to recognize their generous donation of the natural heritage easement for the Caistor-Cardonough Slough Forest ANSI (47 acres/19 hectares).

At their heart, conservation easements are a set of terms that address how private landowners and the heritage community will join together to conserve specific heritage resources. When one looks at the anatomy of a conservation easement and examines its various parts, it is possible to see how the sections operate together to achieve the joint conservation goal of the parties. Both parties have duties and rights under the agreement. The conservation easement permits the landowner to continue to enjoy a property while ensuring decisions that might affect the heritage resources are made in keeping with sound conservation principles and practice.

Conservation easements have a number of basic elements. These include: a description of the heritage features on the property to be conserved; a joint intention clause; duties and rights of the owner as well as the heritage organization; and a set of general legal clauses. Central to most conservation easements is a section where a landowner is required to seek the approval of the heritage organization for any activity that might affect the protected heritage features. For its part, the heritage organization agrees to monitor the property with the landowner on a regular basis and ensure that the resources are well conserved. In order to check compliance and, if necessary, remediate under the agreement, the agreement also grants to the heritage organization a right of access on to the property – or, to use the legal term, an "easement."

The tools at your disposal for heritage conservation are many. While acquiring properties clearly preserves buildings, easements allow a flexibility that enables the property to be inhabited or reused while at the same time respecting the heritage resources these legal agreements conserve. In that way, you can continue to enjoy your heritage property, knowing that it will be protected into the future.

Jeremy Collins is the Coordinator for Acquisitions and Stewardship for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Gardening for biodiversity By Karen Abel

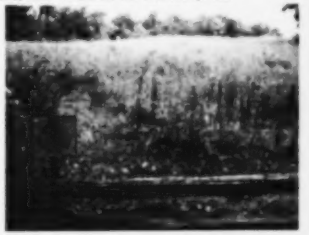
Many gardeners today are finding enjoyable and educational ways to participate in the promotion and preservation of Ontario's natural heritage through the creation of habitat-inspired native plant gardens that reflect the province's rich biodiversity.

Looking to natural landscapes for inspiration, contemporary gardeners are creating beautiful meadow, prairie, woodland and wetland gardens based on the dynamic ecosystems that have shaped the province's natural heritage for thousands of years. Also called ecological or naturalized gardening, native planting preserves natural heritage knowledge and promotes an environmentally conscious approach to gardening through the application of ecological principles.

An urban garden with gray-headed coneflower, a native prairie species

A true gardener's delight, native plants are both esthetically pleasing and low maintenance – providing an array of colours, heights and textures throughout the year. Pest- and disease-resistant, winter- and drought-hardy, these native plant gardens offer an alternative to high-maintenance and environmentally straining lawns and cultivated exotic gardens. Once established, native plants thrive without watering, fertilizers or herbicides. Growing these species improves biodiversity and enhances the local seed source. Native plants also attract a variety of birds, butterflies and other wildlife that depend on native species for food and shelter.

In Ontario, native plants are species that have inhabited a particular region prior to European settlement. The province's approximately 1,900 native plants have evolved over time in tune with rainfall patterns, soil conditions, climate and wildlife. Non-native plant species, brought from other parts of the world, have threatened our biodiversity. Also called exotics, aliens, invasives and weeds, non-native species spread rapidly – often competing with native species and altering the composition of natural communities.



A large butterfly meadow in Rotthwin Park

Anyone can include native plants in their landscaping, from a small backyard wildflower garden in an urban setting, to a large-scale butterfly meadow in a rural community. To begin your project, sketch a map of the planting site to identify topographical features, existing trees, areas of shade and sun, and sources of water. It is also important to determine the soil type to establish which native plants are best suited to your site. Many native species, for instance, thrive in the poor sandy or clay soils found in most urban backyards. After identifying the characteristics of your site, you can determine the most appropriate natural heritage theme for your garden.

Choose species that grow together in the wild; mimic the composition of natural communities. Combine a variety of species that bloom at varying periods of the growing season. Also consider including plants that are becoming increasingly rare in the wild. It is important to check the source of your plants - only use plants that are native to your particular region of Ontario and never purchase plants that have been removed from the wild.

Gardeners collectively nurture thousands of acres across the province and play a significant role in the protection of our natural heritage. People connect more with nature through gardening than any other activity. By creating a native plant garden, you can help restore a diminishing heritage link while making a sound environmental contribution to your community.

For additional information, consult the Canadian Botanical Conservation Network (www.rbg.ca/cbcn/en/publications/misc/homeowner.html) or the Society for Ecological Restoration – Native Plant Resource Guide for Ontario www.serontario.org/publica.htm. Many local nature organizations also publish material that will assist with each stage of your native plant gardening project.

Karen Abel is a Natural Heritage Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Making tracks

By Paula Tarpstra

Ontario's 64,000-km network of trails traverses a varied landscape of wilderness, rural and urban areas. These trails range from waterways and portage routes to footpaths with natural surfaces to multi-use tracks with manufactured surfaces - plus many others. Whatever your interests, there is sure to be a trail activity that will appeal to you.

A successful trails system plays an important role in the well-being of Ontarians. It contributes to better health, a stronger economy through increased tourism, and stronger communities through the involvement of volunteers and private-property owners. It also contributes to the conservation and appreciation of the environment.

Recreational hiking in the picturesque Thunder Bay area.

FIELDWORK

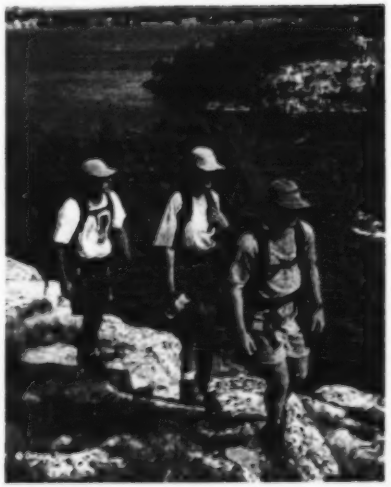
The Ontario government, through the Ministry of Health Promotion, has developed a long-term plan that establishes directions for planning, managing, promoting and using trails in the province. The plan, called the Ontario Trails Strategy, was prepared in part to support ACTIVE2010, the government's strategy to increase sport participation and levels of physical activity among Ontarians. As well, the plan supports other government strategies, including the Tourism Strategy and the Greenbelt Plan.

The Ontario Trails Strategy was released in October 2005, following extensive and collaborative development involving government ministries and a wide range of trail organizations and community stakeholders. It supports continued co-operation among governments, not-for-profit organizations and private sector groups toward a shared vision for trails.

The Ontario Heritage Trust actively participated throughout the development of the Trails Strategy and is working with numerous organizations to ensure its successful implementation.

The Ontario Trails Strategy envisions a world-class system of diversified trails – planned and used in an environmentally responsible manner – that enhances the health and prosperity of all Ontarians. This will require that the trails community work together effectively to address the need for a sustainable network of trails in all parts of Ontario to meet the needs of varied users. As well, trail planning and usage will have to support environmental protection and contribute to the responsible use and appreciation of natural and cultural heritage resources. The enhanced quality of life of all Ontarians will be achieved through the availability of trail-based recreational activities promoting a more active lifestyle as well as through a boost to the economic prosperity of communities through increased tourism opportunities.

There are many opportunities for the Trust to share with others our experience in support of trail initiatives and to provide assistance in a number of related areas. For example, the Trust has long supported trails –



Hiking near Killarney.

most notably through our longstanding partnership with the Bruce Trail Association (BTA) in securing a permanent route for the Bruce Trail. The Bruce Trail – Canada's oldest long-distance hiking trail – extends 725 km along the length of the Niagara Escarpment, from Queenston in Niagara to Tobermory at the northern tip of the Bruce Peninsula. To date, only 49 per cent of the Bruce Trail has been secured.

The Trust has assisted by holding title to over 100 properties (4,055 acres) – nearly 30 per cent of the optimum trail route – as well as through the use of recreational trail/conservation easements on an additional 15 properties. The successful partnership between the Trust and the BTA ensures that lands held by the Trust will be retained as provincial assets, held in perpetuity on behalf of the people of Ontario, while the BTA is able to focus its attention on the expansion and management of the Trail and surrounding lands.

Working in partnership will achieve the objectives of the trail partners while also supporting the directions identified in the Ontario Trails Strategy. These partnerships enable the Trust to work with stakeholder groups to enhance the sustainability of Ontario's trails, to enhance the trail experience and to educate Ontarians about trails. The implementation of the Ontario Trails Strategy in 2006 will see new initiatives on trail mapping, off-road vehicle use, trail-related legislation and a dedicated website on trails and other projects that were identified as priorities during the development of the Strategy.

With the commitment of the province and a diverse group of stakeholders with an interest in trails, we can all look forward to increased opportunities to enjoy our favorite trail activities.

Paula Tarpstra is a Natural Heritage Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Walking trails near Tobermory are year-round favourites.

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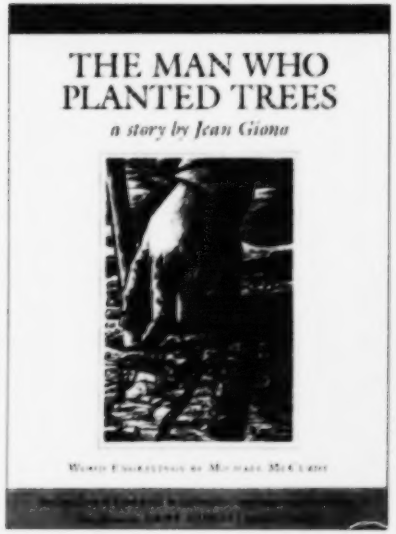
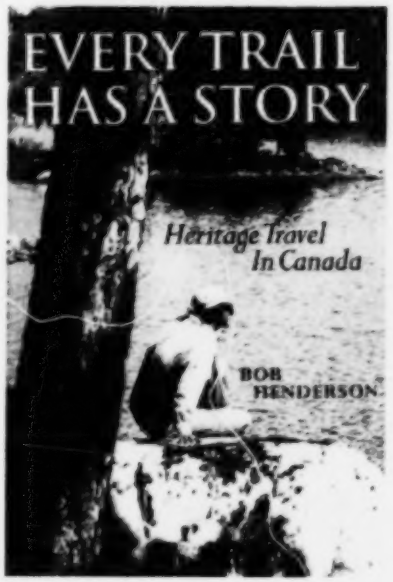


The Man who Planted Trees – 20th anniversary edition
Chelsea Green Publishing Company (White River Junction, Vermont). Jean Giono's extraordinary fable brings to life a shepherd who plants one hundred acorns a day for thirty years. The shepherd's tireless efforts transform the countryside, revitalize his community, and teach us about hope, humanity, and our own ability to create change in the world.

This special 20th anniversary edition includes an inspiring forward by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai, whose Green Belt Movement has planted millions of trees and brought new hope to women and families throughout Kenya. The new afterword by TreePeople founder Andy Lipkis tells his own true story of planting trees in the unlikely ecosystems of Los Angeles, and provides practical resources for taking action in our communities. This edition is printed on 100 per cent recycled paper. Wood engravings by Michael McCurdy.

Every Trail has a Story
Natural Heritage Books. Canada is packed with intriguing places for travel where heritage and landscape interact to create stories that fire our imagination. Scattered across the land are incredible tales of human life over the centuries. From the Majorville rock formation (dated as being older than Stonehenge), through the systems of walking trails developed by pre-contact Native Peoples, the fur trade routes, and more recently, the grand stories of the Chilkoot Gold Rush of 1897 – Bob Henderson captures our living history in its relationship to the land – best expressed through the Norwegian quote "nature is the true home of culture."

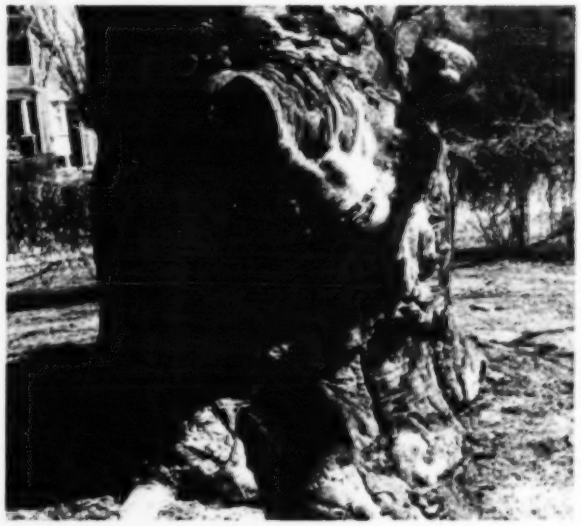
Bob Henderson teaches Outdoor Education at McMaster University in Hamilton. Starting as a camper and canoe tripping staff member at Camp Ahmek in Algonquin Park, he has developed a lifelong interest in Canadian travel heritage and travel guiding.



Remarkable trees – Heritage tree preservation in Ontario

By Fran Moscall

What is heavier than any land animal, taller than most buildings, older than many ancient monuments? One of the world's oldest living organisms are – not surprisingly – trees. A massive oak or beech can weigh 30 tons, cover 2,000 square yards, and include 10 miles of twigs and branches. Each year, a large tree pumps several tons of water about 100 feet into the air, produces a new crop of 1,000 leaves and covers half an acre of trunk and branches with a new pelt of bark (see Thomas Pakenham's book, *Meetings with Remarkable Trees*).



This majestic beech tree is located at Toronto's Ashbridge Estate, a property owned and operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

There are many fine examples of heritage trees across Ontario. The Ontario Heritage Trust, for example, protects several of these living monuments on properties it owns or protects. A spectacular beech (pictured here), and a giant oak at Ruthven in Cayuga are living relics that link us to our beginnings in this province. Heritage trees have been defined as follows:

A heritage tree is a notable specimen because of its size, form, shape, beauty, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution or other distinctive features; a living relic that displays evidence of cultural modification by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people including strips of bark or knot-free wood removed, test hole cut to determine soundness, furrows cut to collect pitch or sap, or blazes to mark a trail; a prominent community landmark; a specimen associated with an historic person, place or event or period; a representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors that is at risk of disappearing from cultivation; a tree associated with local folklore, myths, legends or traditions; a specimen identified by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition (Courtesy: Paul Aird, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto).

A recent initiative to assist communities in the identification and preservation of heritage trees was launched in 2005 by the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance. This partnership includes the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Ontario Urban Forest Council, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Forestry Association, Community Heritage Ontario, LEAF, the Elora Centre for Environmental Excellence and two ratepayer groups. This partnership has developed a toolkit for the identification, evaluation and preservation of Ontario's heritage trees.

The toolkit will assist communities in their "Great Tree Hunt," which will identify trees in their community that deserve heritage recognition and, ultimately, protection. Funded with a Ministry of Culture heritage grant, the toolkit has been tested in both Elora and South Simcoe County where successful community hunts have resulted in the recognition of a select group of magnificent trees and the unveiling of heritage tree plaques. Launch of this toolkit province-wide is planned for 2006.

Ontario's remarkable heritage trees will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come when we work together now to preserve them.

Fran Moscall is a Project Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance.

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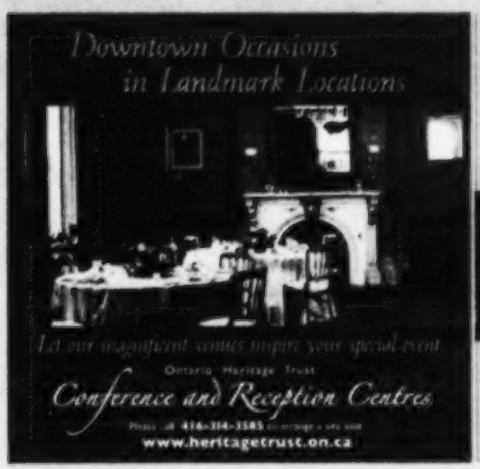
Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site is owned and operated by the Ontario Heritage Trust.



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